

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPHS

Now that you have your plan sheet finished with your completed PEEL chart, you are ready to begin the rough draft of your essay. Obviously, that means you begin with an introductory paragraph. For the Writing FSA, the expectation is that your introduction is brief and to the point. This means, your introductory paragraph will have fewer sentences than an average paragraph.



HOOK SENTENCE: This is the 1st sentence of your introduction and your essay. It should be an interesting statement that “hooks” the reader’s attention. You could also add a 2nd sentence before the claim that continues your hook, if you would like to elaborate. Remember, you must write in the 3rd person without personal pronouns/opinion words.

Examples of hook sentences include:

- A startling fact (*The Earth is dying and the human race may be the murderer.*)
- A descriptive scene based on the prompt’s subject (*A once green forest filled with trees is now a wasteland of empty stumps.*)
- A lead into your claim (*For some people, global warming still seems like a wild theory.*)



CLAIM/CONTROLLING IDEA: This should be your 2nd or 3rd sentence in your introduction, depending on how long you made your hook. This is your **point** for writing (the “P” in PEEL). It should incorporate what the prompt is asking you and should only be 1 complete sentence long. For example, here is a prompt for an essay about global warming: *Choose a position declaring if you believe global warming is or is not a real problem.* Here is a claim for that prompt: *Global warming is a real problem because scientists continue to discover undeniable evidence of human impact negatively affecting our planet.*



LEADING SENTENCES: These should be your 3rd and 4th sentences, depending on how long your hook is. You want the next 1-2 sentences after your claim to lead your reader into your body paragraphs. This does not mean you write a sentence like this: *Now I will tell you why global warming is negatively affecting our planet.* **NO!** Remember, no personal pronouns and opinion words. Make a statement that teases the reader with the evidence and elaboration you are about to provide them. For example: *There are scientists all over the world who are studying this growing issue. The amount of evidence to support their theories about global warming is staggering.* Done! Now you are ready for the body of your essay.

An introductory paragraph can then be outlined like this:

HOOK SENTENCE _____ . **CLAIM/CONTROLLING IDEA** _____ .

LEADING SENTENCE _____ . **LEADING**

SENTENCE _____ .

Easy! Now, write your introductory paragraph on a separate piece of notebook paper, using your PEEL plan sheet to help you.